

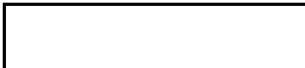
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18 May 1955

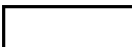
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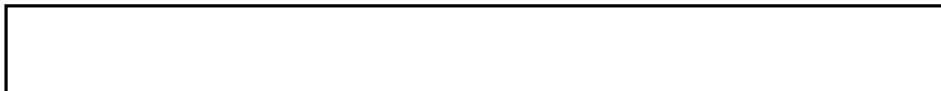
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Dept. review completed

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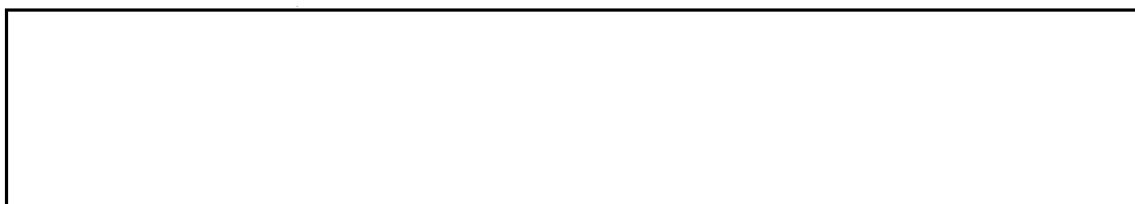
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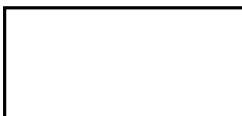
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SOVIET UNION

2. Bulganin calls for higher productivity and reorganization of economic planning:

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In a speech delivered at the opening of a large conference of industrial workers in Moscow on 16 May, Premier Bulganin praised the rapid growth of the Soviet economy, but scored numerous industrial defects which, he said, must be eliminated in order to "vanquish capitalism in economic competition."

The premier stated that the State Planning Committee (GOSPLAN) was being split into two bodies, one to be responsible for long-range economic planning, the other for

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current planning. In addition, a new committee is being established to ensure the incorporation of new technical processes into the Soviet economy.

Bulganin demanded greater labor productivity through increased use of new technology, more industrial specialization, and additional reductions of administrative bureaucracy.

Comment: Continued failure to attain goals in labor productivity has caused increasing concern to Soviet leaders. Industrial output plans have been attained only by expanding the urban labor force more rapidly than scheduled.

The present drive to increase agricultural production precludes further increases of the urban working force and makes the need for higher output per worker more pressing.

The establishment of separate bodies for long- and short-range economic planning resembles the division of these functions which existed in the USSR from 1948 to 1953, and which resulted in a significant improvement in production during that period.

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

4. Sect forces still a problem to Vietnamese government:

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The Cao Dai pope wants to form his own army and is being encouraged in this course by the French, [redacted]

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[redacted] The pope is said to be able to count on two Cao Dai battalions now and is seeking the support of the troops commanded by the late General The.

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Meanwhile, Diem has protested to General Ely over alleged French liaison with Hoa Hao forces under General Soai. [redacted]

Comment: The Cao Dai pope continued to denounce Diem long after the Cao Dai armed forces, under Generals Phuong and The, had lined up with the government. Recently, however, the pope has come out against Bao Dai and in support of the Revolutionary Committee, which supports Diem.

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It is doubtful that the pope could muster any effective armed group without the support of Phuong, whose present allegiance to Diem may prove temporary or require considerable cash subsidy.

Diem is using a joint French-American plan as the basis for further study regarding the integration of sect forces into the army. Two major Hoa Hao commanders remain bitterly anti-Diem and a solution to the sect problem will require considerable time, talk, and cash.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

5. Iraq reported seeking Syrian coalition to upset Damascus government:

Baghdad has decided to send two former Iraqi prime ministers to Syria to try to persuade the Populist and Nationalist Parties there to organize a coalition which could bring about the fall of the present Syrian government.

This decision was taken at a meeting on 12 May of numerous former and present high Iraqi officials, including King Faisal and Prime Minister Nuri Said, and was reported to the American ambassador by Khalil Kenna, a trusted confidant of the prime minister.

Comment: This report indicates that the Baghdad government is emphasizing political rather than military subversion as a method of overthrowing the Damascus government.

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EASTERN EUROPE

6. Yugoslavs reportedly will refuse party ties with USSR:

25X1 [redacted] A Yugoslav newspaperman has told an American official in Belgrade that he has definite information the initiative for high-level Soviet-Yugoslav talks came from Moscow. He said he was sure Soviet leaders would try to re-establish party relations with the aim of drawing Yugoslavia back into the Soviet bloc, but that the Russians would fail, because Belgrade wants to keep relations on a government-to-government basis. Although he expects the USSR to try to reactivate the old mutual assistance agreement, he does not believe Belgrade is willing to enter into any kind of treaty with the USSR "just now."

Ambassador Riddleberger is inclined to think the Yugoslavs do not want to re-establish party ties. He believes they are hoping, however, to establish complete rapport in Yugoslav-Soviet state relations in the belief that this would be a major step toward relaxing international tensions. To this end, the Yugoslavs may seek a settlement of pre-1948 economic claims, the repatriation of Yugoslavs held in the USSR, and the expansion of trade and cultural relations. Riddleberger feels that the subjects covered in conversations on how to reduce world tensions will include disarmament, Germany, and European security.

Comment: In public statements the Yugoslavs have consistently denied any desire to re-establish ties with the Soviet Communist Party. They have, however, shown considerable satisfaction with private statements to them by Soviet officials allegedly indicating acceptance of Yugoslav party developments as a legitimate interpretation of Marxism. [redacted]

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7. Britain sees Soviet visit to Belgrade as triumph for Tito:

25X1 [redacted] The British Foreign Office considers the forthcoming visit of Soviet leaders to Belgrade as a triumph for Tito, who is

described as an old Communist who will know how to take care of himself. The Soviet move is also regarded as another step in an attempt to establish a neutral belt including Germany.

London believes that in return for a Yugoslav declaration of neutrality, the USSR might offer further "normalization" of relations, economic concessions, restraint on military deployments in nearby Satellite nations, and even arms aid.

Comment: British officials have not directly discouraged the concept of a neutral belt as such, but they have insisted that any understanding with the USSR must not impair NATO's strength, which depends on German participation, or lead to a slackening of American interest in maintaining its commitment in Europe.

British officials have recently indicated that they are satisfied with Tito's present relations with the West.

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8. Hammar skjold prods Chou En-lai on American airmen:

UN secretary general Hammar skjold reminded Chou En-lai in a telegram on 16 May that he had received no reply to his query of 23 April as to what he could do to facilitate the release of American airmen imprisoned in Communist China. The telegram emphasized the importance of early action on this matter.

Comment: Hammar skjold told Ambassador Lodge two weeks ago he would soon tell Chou that, if there were no reply by 1 June, he would report to the UN that his mission had been a failure. Hammar skjold's 16 May telegram apparently did not set any such deadline.

Peiping, in the interest of improving the atmosphere for Sino-American negotiations on current Chinese issues, has been expected to release some of the at least 55 Americans detained in China.

9. Comment on resignation of Dutch cabinet:



The Dutch parliament is likely to be dissolved and new elections scheduled as a result of the resignation of the Catholic-Labor coalition cabinet following its defeat on the controversial rent bill. Although some attempt may be made to form another coalition to avoid new elections--which no party desires this year--the controversy over the rent bill comes at the end of a long series of disagreements between the coalition members.

The queen is empowered to dissolve either one or both of the two chambers, with elections following within 40 days. The present cabinet would continue as a caretaker government.

New elections would probably have little effect on the present political alignment. The two major parties, the Catholic and Labor Parties, are represented almost equally, but neither is likely to gain a parliamentary majority. However, as after the 1952 general elections, the process of forming a new government might be long drawn out. [REDACTED]